They Say, I Say

They say I am brown

I say

I am proud.

They say I only know how to cook

I say

I know how to write a book

So

Don’t judge me by the way I look

They say I am brown

I say

I am proud

They say I’m not the future of this nation

I say

Stop giving me discrimination

Instead

I’m gonna use my education

To help build the human nation.

Questions to ask yourself:

1. What do you think people say about you based on the activities you’re involved with? Your appearance? Your attitude? Your friends?
2. What do you want people to know about you? What do you wish people would see when they look at you?
3. What things can or will you do to change others’ opinions of you?

After answering these questions, write your own “They Say, I Say” poem. Use the poem from Diary 103 as a model, but ultimately, the format of the piece is up to you. The only necessity is that you should have the repetition of “they say…” and “I say…” throughout the piece. Aim for no less than ten lines.